

Special Analysis

INDIA:

Toward an Evenhanded Foreign Policy

New Delhi's willingness to play down potentially serious differences with the US, France, and Pakistan underscores the new balance Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is injecting into Indian foreign policy. To Moscow's consternation, his low-key style is easing tensions [REDACTED] with those nations and is opening new possibilities for trade, arms acquisition, and technology transfer. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] public criticism of the US by the Congress Party and the English-language press has dwindled since November. Gandhi has also avoided public diatribes against the US-Pakistani security relationship. [REDACTED]

Discreet Handling of Spy Scandal

New Delhi's handling of the current spy scandal so far has been characterized by as much forbearance toward Pakistan and France as toward Moscow. [REDACTED] Rajiv resisted the opportunity to turn the low-level Pakistani spying incident 10 days ago into a public issue. He [REDACTED] has asked Paris, and may ask Moscow, to recall implicated diplomats in hope of avoiding public embarrassment. [REDACTED]

Moscow's Concerns

Moscow endorsed Rajiv's election in hope he would continue his mother's foreign policy and probably expects that close US-Pakistani relations will prevent any significant downturn in Soviet relations with India. Nonetheless, numerous sources report the Soviets are concerned about Rajiv's interest in advanced technology and fear it will lead to economic liberalization in India, improved relations with the West, and reduced dependence on the USSR for trade and military sales. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

The Soviet Ambassador in India, moreover, has urged his Communist allies to "monopolize" Rajiv and other senior officials with a steady stream of delegations to keep their attention on the Soviet economic model. New Delhi is indeed to be deluged with visitors from the Soviet Bloc in the coming months, and Rajiv and other high Indian officials are expected to visit Moscow. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Gandhi's decision to visit Moscow before he comes to the US in June probably is intended to underline the continuing importance India attaches to its Soviet connection despite the changing tone of relations with the West.

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The reported involvement of Soviet officials in the developing spy scandal probably already has undercut Soviet efforts to fan suspicions of the US within the Indian Government. If Moscow's involvement is publicized, Soviet efforts to stir up anti-American sentiments with the Indian public probably would be undercut as well.

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